
A New Species of *Mollinedia* (Monimiaceae) from Costa Rica

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ABSTRACT. A new species of *Mollinedia* from Costa Rica, *M. macrophylla* J. F. Morales & Q. Jiménez, is described and illustrated.

Mollinedia Ruiz & Pavón (subfamily Mollinedioideae) is a dioecious genus of ca. 90 species of shrubs and small trees restricted to moist and wet forest of the Neotropics. It was monographed by Perkins (1900), and the most recent taxonomic revision was the thesis of Piexoto (1987).

While revising collections of *Mollinedia* Ruiz & Pavón in preparation for the *Manual de las Plantas de Costa Rica*, a different species with larger leaves not corresponding to any previously described taxon was found in the Braulio Carrillo National Park. We conclude it represents a new species, and we describe it here.

Mollinedia macrophylla J. F. Morales & Q. Jiménez, sp. nov. TYPE. Costa Rica. Limón: Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo, bosque primario en el sendero Las Palmas, estación Quebrada Gonzalez, 19°57'10"N, 84°08'50"W, 500 m, 18 mayo 1993 (fl), Morales et al. 1500 (holotype, INB; isotypes, CR, F, K, MO, NY). Figure 1.

Species foliis grandissimis, 28–42 × 21–28.5 cm, a congeneribus diversa.

Dioecious shrub 2–5 m tall, sometimes somewhat scandent, the branchlets puberulent, smooth or scarcely striate. Leaves 28–42 × 21–28.5 cm, ovate to elliptic, membranaceous, glabrous above, very sparsely puberulent below, the margin serrulate, short acuminate to acute at the apex, obtuse to rounded basally, the venation impressed above, prominent, puberulent and conspicuous below; petioles 2–3 cm × 4–5 mm, rugose, puberulent. Staminate inflorescences 1–6 in the leaf axils, in 2–3-flowered cymes, 3–6 cm long, puberulent, cream hairs, peduncles 0.3–1.5 cm long, pedicels 2–7 mm long, bracts ca. 2 mm long, ovate, acute, scarious. Flowers 0.9–1.1 cm diam. at anthesis, campanulate, puberulent; te-

pals 4, the outer pair 4–5 mm long, 5–6 mm broad, obtuse, the inner pair slightly smaller, with an apical lacinate appendage; stamens ca. 150, 2–3 mm long, the anthers hippocrepiform, sessile or subsessile. Carpellate inflorescence 2–5-flowered, in the axil of the leaf, puberulent, peduncles 2–7 mm long, pedicels 0.8–2.3 cm long, bracts ca. 2 mm long, ovate, acute, scarious; flowers 7–8 mm diam., turbinate, tepals 2–3 mm long, caducous, the carpels ca. 1 mm long, 31–40, cylindrical, puberulent, style ca. 0.5 mm long, clavate. Fruiting receptacle 1.7–2.1 cm broad, discoid, reflexed, sparsely puberulent on both surfaces; fruiting carpels 1.4–1.7 × 0.9–1.1 cm, ellipsoid, 2–5 (7), carnosae, glabrous, the seed slightly smaller, 1.3–1.5 cm long, mottled with purple, glabrous.

Mollinedia macrophylla is known only from the tropical rainforest of the northeastern slopes of the Cordillera Volcánica Central, in the Braulio Carrillo National Park, near Horquetas of Sarapiquí, at elevations of 300–650 m. Flowering from May to June.

Mollinedia macrophylla differs from all the previously known species of *Mollinedia* in Mesoamerica by its very large leaves. It is somewhat related to *Mollinedia butleriana* Standley from Honduras, but *M. macrophylla* differs from that species by its larger leaves, sparser pubescence, and larger fruiting carpels. Most of the species in the genus have smaller leaves (Piexoto, 1987; Perkins, 1900).

Paratype. COSTA RICA. Heredia: Parque Nacional Braulio Carrillo, Sendero Las Palmas, 16 May 1993, Rivera s.n. (CR, F, INB, MO).

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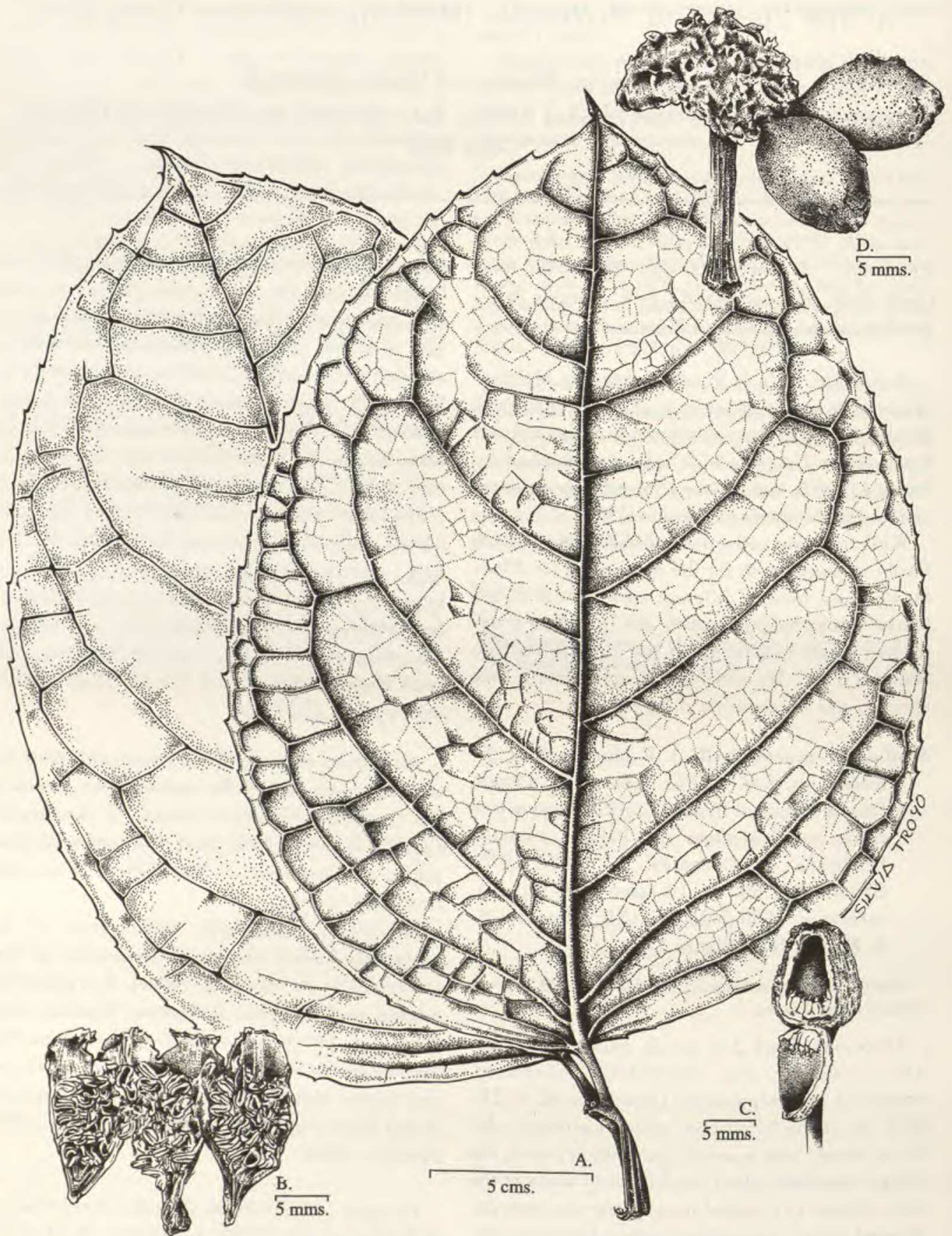


Figure 1. A–D. *Mollinedia macrophylla* J. F. Morales & Q. Jiménez (Morales et al. 1500). —A. Habit. —B. Staminate flower expanded and stamens. —C. Pistillate flower and carpels. —D. Receptacle and fruiting carpels.

Literature Cited

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